Student Spotlight Competition

The plenary session of World Aquaculture 2015 in Jeju concluded by highlighting WAS student scholars and researchers via a spotlight competition. Ballots were distributed to the plenary session audience to determine the winner. Based on audience rankings, all three presenters were awarded cash prizes at the President’s Social.

The winner of the Student Spotlight Competition was Lalinka Herath from the Department of Marine Biology and Medical Sciences at Jeju National University. Lalinka’s talk was titled “Identification and functional delineation of a first molluscan transderrin like counterpart from disk abalone (Haliotis discus discus), evidence for its potent antimicrobial properties.”

The other two presenters were Min-Gi Kim, also from Jeju National University, and Chao-Fen Lin, from Nation Cheng Kung University in Taiwan. Min-Gi’s presentation was titled “Effects of dietary supplementation of Aquaviance on growth performance, feed utilization, and innate immunity of juvenile olive flounder Paralichthys olivaceus.” Chao-Fen’s presentation was titled “Development of a novel subunit vaccine with linear array epitope against nervous necrosis virus infection in giant grouper.”

Oral and Poster Awards

Zuliyati Rohmah is working on a Ph.D. in the Department of Seafood Science and Technology at Gyeongsang National University in South Korea and received the first place oral presentation award for her talk titled “Enhancing growth and muscle coloration of sea-reared rainbow trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss) with ascidian tunic carotenoids.” Her advisor for this work is Byeong-Dae Choi and they are investigating how to increase carotenoid inclusion in rainbow trout without compromising growth performance. Prior to this Ph.D. work Zuliyati completed a M.S. degree at the Universitas Gadjah Mada in Indonesia on the structure and development of lens in chickens.

Natthinee Munkongwongsiri is currently pursuing her Ph.D., investigating shrimp reproduction and health at Kasetsart University in Bangkok, Thailand under the tutelage of Dr. Niti Chuchird. Her presentation was titled “Effects of postlarval quality on the occurrence of early mortality syndrome in farm-raised Pacific white shrimp.” Over the past three years Natthinee has co-authored papers appearing in the Global Aquaculture Advocate and several booklets, providing information on various aspects of shrimp culture to farmers in Thailand. After graduation Natthinee would like to pursue a career as a researcher within private industry or obtain a university lecturer position.

Chao-Fen Lin’s poster titled “Development of a novel subunit vaccine with linear array epitope against nervous necrosis virus infection in giant grouper” received the first place award for poster presentations. Lin is a Ph.D. student within the institute of Biotechnology at the National Cheng Kung University in Taiwan. She is investigating of molecular factors involved in immune responses against pathogens in farmed finfish. Her advisor for this work is Dr. Tzong-Yueh Chen. After graduation she hopes to work in feed formula development and design vaccines for commercial fish.

Yi-Jhen Lee was awarded the second place award for her poster titled “Characterization of the envelope protein VP51B of shrimp White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV).” Lee is a M.S. student within The Institute of Marine Biology at the National Taiwan Ocean University. Her major work for this degree is on molecular work related to WSSV with the goal of discovering effective methods via molecular tools to protect shrimp from WSSV. She near completing this degree and looks forward to continuing this work in a Ph.D. program in the future.